

Serial No.: 10/672,337

Attorney Docket No.: 2003P08216US

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REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-6, 8-9, and 11-23 are pending. Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended, and claims 21-23 have been added, to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1-6, 8-9 and 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Murray, U.S. Patent No. 6,484,033 ("Murray") in view of Kalthoff et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0048364 ("Kalthoff"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Murray or Kalthoff, either singly or in combination.

As discussed in the Specification, a telecommunications system according to an embodiment of the present invention includes a plurality of network clients including a positioning controller and a communications controller; and a positioning server including a coordinating controller for maintaining a database of network clients to be tracked and provide updates of position-related information to a presence server. The plurality of network clients are configured to transmit position information received via the positioning controller to the positioning server via the communications controller, the positioning information including information related to loss of a position signal. In certain embodiments, presence-position correlation rules accommodate the loss of signal. Thus, in certain embodiments, the system assigns a location to the device responsive to such a loss, based on prior position signal information. In some embodiments, the position may be associated with a contact telephone number, that may be updated when the loss of signal occurs.

Thus, claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein contact information associated with the location is updated when said position-related information is updated, said contact information being associated with a telephone number at the location;" claim 8 has been amended to recite "and contact information associated with the position that is updated when said positioning information is updated, said contact

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information being associated with a telephone number at the position;" claim 15 has been amended to recite "contact information associated with the position that is updated when said positioning information is updated, said contact information being associated with a telephone number at the location."

As discussed in response to the previous Official Action, Murray merely relates to a pager system that has a calendar service, rather than a service that define availability on a plurality of particular devices using location and presence rules relating to a loss of signal as generally recited in the claims at issue. In Murray, another user is telephoned if a device is determined not to be able to return to an available conference site in time for the conference. However, the user in Murray is not able to set presence and availability correlations associated with a plurality of the user's devices, or rules relating to a loss of signal as generally recited in the claims at issue. If he is not able to make it back, then he is not available at all; other users are not able to contact him. In contrast, in embodiments of the present invention, users are able to make use of the presence and location correlation rules to determine where he is available, even when a loss of signal condition occurs.

Furthermore, in failing to teach location and presence correlation rules, Murray also does not provide for "contact information associated with the location [that] is updated when said position-related information is updated, said contact information being associated with a telephone number at the location."

As acknowledged the Official Action, Murray additionally fails to disclose "positioning information including information related to loss of a position signal." Kalthoff, instead, is relied on for such teaching. However, like Murray, Kalthoff fails to teach, suggest, or imply, for example, "contact information associated with the location [that] is updated when said position-related information is updated, said contact information being associated with a telephone number at the location." Instead, Kalthoff simply provides a time and likely direction of signal loss. However, Kalthoff does not provide for alternative contact information updates associated with the location, as generally recited in the claims at issue.

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As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Newly added claims 21-23 depend from independent claims discussed above and for similar reasons are likewise believed allowable.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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